

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/758,358

Examiner

Melur Ramakrishnaiah

Applicant(s)

HASAN ET AL.

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1-3-2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6 and 8-11.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Melur Ramakrishnaiah
MELUR RAMAKRISHNAIAH
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention relates to the art of communications in general, and, more particularly, to a method and system for paying tolls via wireless communication networks and devices.

The prior art of record in combination or alone fails to teach or suggest these elements of independent claims 1 and 8. For example independent claim 1 has claim limitations such as sensing that the motorist is within range of a base station for a toll plaza having a given toll that is to be paid by the motorist, determining via a mobile switching center whether the motorist has activated a wireless toll payment service associated with the communication device, evaluating via the mobile switching center whether the subscriber has pre-selected a combined billing option for the account, where it has been determined that the service has been activated by the subscriber, sending the charge transaction from the mobile switching center to a toll payment system, where the motorist has not selected the combined billing option, the charge transaction indicating that the toll has been paid by the motorist, and generating a billing record for the motorist at the mobile switching center and sending a non-charge transaction from a mobile switching center to a toll payment system, where the motorist has selected the combined billing option, the non-charge transaction indicating that the toll has been billed to the motorist by the wireless service provider. Independent claim 8 has claim limitations such as means for sensing that the motorist having a communication device is within the range of base station for a toll plaza having a given toll that is to be paid by the motorist, means for determining at a mobile switching center

Art Unit: 2614

whether the motorist has activated wireless toll payment service associated with the communication device, means for evaluating at the mobile switching center whether the subscriber has pre-selected a combined billing option for the account, where it has been determined that the service has been activated by the subscriber, means for sending a charge transaction from the mobile switching center to a toll payment system, where the motorist has not selected the combined billing option, the charge transaction indicating that the toll has not been paid by the motorist, and means for generating a billing a record for the motorist at the mobile switching center and sending a non-charge transaction from the mobile switching center to a toll payment system, where the motorist has selected combined billing option, the non-charge transaction indicating that the toll has been billed to the motorist by the wireless service provider. For the above reasons, independent claims 1, 8 and their dependent claims 2-6, 9-11 are allowable.

2. Claims 1-6, 8-11 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melur Ramakrishnaiah whose telephone number is (571)272-8098. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 Hr schedule.

Art Unit: 2614

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curt Kuntz can be reached on (571) 272-7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Melur Ramakrishnaiah
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2614